

Bookmark the new website address of the Kansas Arts Commission: <http://arts.ks.gov>.

Guidelines for artists wishing to be on the Kansas Arts on Tour Roster and for 2008 Governor's Arts Awards nominations will be posted on the website in June.

National Symphony Orchestra Makes Kansas Debut

Under the batons of Music Director Leonard Slatkin and Associate Conductor Emil de Cou, the National Symphony Orchestra conducted its 17th American Residency in Kansas as a part of its American Residency program.

The seven-day tour began Friday, March 23 and continued through Thursday, March 29.

Full orchestra concerts were hosted by the Topeka Symphony, the Wichita Symphony Orchestra, Fort Hays State University, the Lied Center of Kansas, and Pittsburg Memorial Auditorium.

In addition to the concerts, over 100 educational and outreach activities were held in communities throughout the state.

In an interview with the Topeka Capital-Journal, Maestro Leonard



The National Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet Performs for employees and guests at Security Benefit in Topeka.

Slatkin said community outreach activities are an important component of the American Residency Program.

“To some degree, what we do is less about the orchestra concerts than it is about our work in the communities: master classes, playing for retirement communities, in shopping malls, schools.”

2007 Governor's Arts Awards Recipients To Be Honored In June

The Kansas Arts Commission will honor Governor's Arts Awards recipients at a reception and awards dinner in Topeka on June 7, 2007, at Washburn University.

Actress and Goessel native Shirley Knight will be presented with the Distinguished Artist Award, and seven other individuals and organizations will also be honored. Governor Kathleen Sebelius has been invited to attend.

The dinner and awards ceremony will begin at 7:00 pm at Washburn University's Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center. Tickets for the event are \$45.

Governor's Arts Awards winners are Central National Bank (arts patron organization), Elaine Olafson Henry (individual artist), singer/songwriter Kelley Hunt (individual artist), Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey (arts organization), Alice Joy Lewis (arts educator), Mike Michaelis (individual arts patron) and Jean Ney (arts advocate).

For more information and to purchase tickets, please contact Margaret Weisbrod Morris at 785/368-6545 or margaret@arts.ks.gov.



Llewellyn Crain

From The Executive Director

Greetings!

As we head into a new era at the Kansas Arts Commission, we are responding by creating a new strategic plan.

This plan will guide us as we look ahead to 2012, creating benchmarks and new programs along the way. We seek to be a dynamic agency that will be recognized for its innovative, proactive and responsive arts and cultural leadership in the state of Kansas. We will expand horizons, initiate collaborations and create opportunities to build the resources of and strengthen Kansas arts and culture.

But to do all that, we need your help and guidance. Some of you have already attended strategic planning

meetings in which you told us that you want leadership, training and assistance in making the arts the center of community building and civic planning.

We will be holding more meetings this summer in Hutchinson, Dodge City and Lawrence to get your reaction to the first draft of our plan, which will be formally adopted by the Commissioners at our fall meeting.

For more information about these meetings, or to RSVP, call 785/296-3335 or email kac@arts.ks.gov.

Yours,

Llewellyn Crain

Respond to the first draft of the Kansas Arts Commission's Strategic Plan!

Lawrence:

Tuesday, June 26
4:00 - 5:30 pm
Lawrence Arts Center
940 New Hampshire St.

Dodge City:

Thursday, June 28
11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Historic Santa Fe Depot
101 E. Wyatt Earp Blvd.

Hutchinson:

Friday, June 29
1:00 - 3:00 pm
Hutchinson Art Center
405 N. Washington Ave.

Kansas Arts Commission Staff

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Please put our new email addresses in your address books!

Website:
<http://arts.ks.gov>

Kansas Arts Commission Announces Poetry Out Loud State Champion And Runner-Up

The Kansas Arts Commission is pleased to announce the winners of the 2007 Kansas Poetry Out Loud competition, held in Topeka on March 2, 2007, at the Brown v. Board National Historic Site.

Five Kansas high school students competed for the state title and runner-up position.

Patrick Kuhn, a senior at Salina High School Central, won the title of state champion. He received \$200 and competed in the Poetry Out Loud National Finals in Washington, D.C., on April 30 and May 1, 2007.

In addition, Salina High School Central received a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books.

Melisa Grandison, a senior at Quinter High School, was named runner-up. She received \$100, along with \$200 for the Quinter High School library.

Poetry Out Loud is a program of the Kansas Arts Commission, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation.



Kansas Poetry Out Loud state champion Patrick Kuhn and runner-up Melisa Grandison.

Kansas Artists Honored With Fellowships

Thirteen Kansas Artists were celebrated at a fellowship reception on March 7 at the Topeka office of John C. Peterson, Capitol Strategies Group.

Kansas Arts Commission Chair Anita Wolgast presented awards of \$5,000 to Kansas Artist Fellowship recipients and \$500 to Mini-Fellowship recipients.

KAC commissioners, staff, legislators from the awardees' districts and fellowship winners' family members were also in attendance.

This year's fellowship winners are filmmaker Steve Balderson, Wamego; choreographer Sabrina Vasquez, Wichita; and composer Craig Weston, Manhattan.

Mini-Fellowship recipients are G.W. Clift, Manhattan; Darren DeFrain, Wichita; Scott Freeby, Manhattan; Lacey Lewis, Kansas City; Justin Lee Marable, Topeka; Lisa Moser, Wichita; Julie Pentz, Manhattan; Girard Sagmiller, Shawnee; Gary Stapp, Garnett; and Joyce Thierer, Admire.



Fellowship winner Craig Weston, left, receives a \$5,000 cash award from Kansas State Senator Roger Reitz.

Commissioners

Anita Wolgast
Chair
Topeka

Judy Langley
Vice-Chairman
Hutchinson

John Divine
Secretary-Treasurer
Salina

Jennie Becker
Wichita

Christine Downey-Schmidt
Inman

Ann Evans
Lawrence

Joshua Garry
Leawood

Sharon Kriss
Colby

Suzanne Montaño
Topeka

Novelene Ross
Wichita

Lemuel Sheppard
Pittsburg

Quilt Exhibit Explores Native American Quilting Traditions

Kansas Native American quilters will showcase their artistry in *Native Threads*, a traveling quilt exhibit opening in July at the Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri Tribal Museum and Research Center in Reserve, KS.

A variety of quilts, including star, turtle and clan quilts, will be on display at the museum from July 5, 2007, through August 16, 2007.

The exhibit focuses on the development of quilt-making as a form of expression and the passing down of traditional methods from generation to generation.

For more information, or to find other venues hosting the exhibit, contact Molly Alspaugh at Mid-America Arts Alliance at molly@maa.org or 816/421-1388, Ext. 209.

Native Threads is supported by an American Masterpieces grant, a program of the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art, Mid-America Arts Alliance and the Kansas Arts Commission.



Kepsey Fixico, *Clan Quilt*, 2006, cotton, hand-pieced and hand-quilted, 98 1/2" x 88";
Courtesy: Mid-America Arts Alliance

To make changes to your mailing information or to be added to our mailing list, please contact us. If you would like to receive an electronic version of our newsletter, please e-mail us at kac@arts.ks.gov.

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